

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An in-wheel motor system having a hollow direct drive motor which is provided in a wheel and whose stator side is supported to a part around the wheel of a vehicle by elastic bodies and/or an attenuation mechanism, wherein

a motor rotor and a wheel or a hub are interconnected by a coupling mechanism which comprises a wheel-side plate connected to the wheel or hub, a motor-side plate connected to a rotating side case of the motor, an intermediate plate interposed between these two plates, and first and second slide members for interconnecting between the wheel-side plate and the intermediate plate and between the intermediate plate and the motor-side plate, each having roller members whose moving directions are limited by guide portions, and arranged in such a manner that their moving directions are orthogonal to each other;

roller members are respectively mounted at positions on surfaces of the motor-side plate and a wheel-side plate, which face to the intermediate plate side, in the circumference direction, so as to oppose each other,

~~wherein the guide portions comprise~~ comprises a stepped surfaces portion, which is formed so as to extend in the moving direction of the roller member, on a front and rear surface in both sides of the intermediate plate;

a sectional form of a stepped surface that is a surface of the stepped portion crossing the intermediate plate corresponds to a form of a side surface of the roller; and

a form of the side surface on the stepped surface side of the roller member is brought into contact with the stepped surface so as to control the moving direction of the roller member.

2. (previously presented): The in-wheel motor system according to claim 1, wherein contact portions which extend in the moving directions of the roller members and are brought into contact with side faces of the roller members are provided on the intermediate plate to limit the moving directions of the roller members.

3. (original): The in-wheel motor system according to claim 1 or 2, comprising an elastic annular dust boot for storing the first and second slide members.

4 - 6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): The in-wheel motor system according to ~~any one of claims 1 or claim 2~~1-3, wherein the roller members are mounted on both the wheel-side plate and the motor-side plate.

8. (previously presented): The in-wheel motor system according to claim 7, wherein each of the roller members has a convex portion forming part of spherical surface.